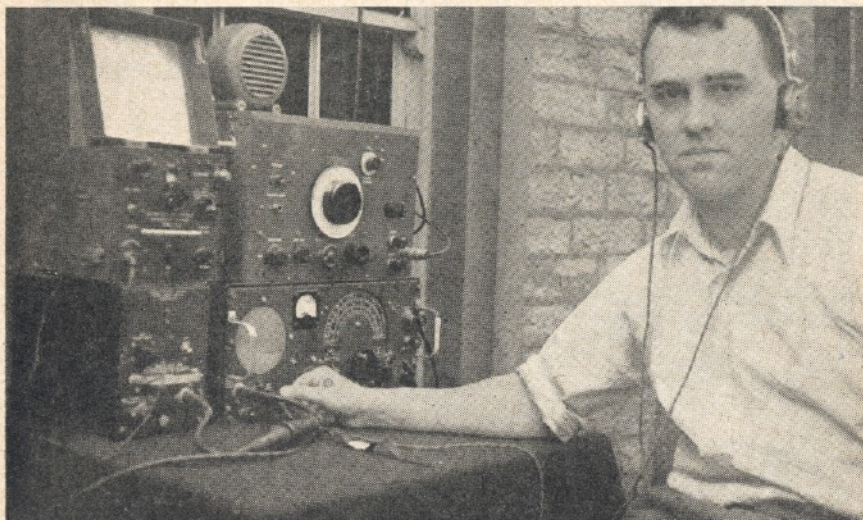


Around the Shacks

No. 37



Dr. T. B. Williamson, Alstonefield, Derbyshire

We have pleasure in presenting this month, Dr. Williamson's account of his receiving station, which force of circumstances necessitates is of a semi-portable character. Dr. Williamson is now serving in the RAMC and we are sure all readers will join with us in wishing him good listening in DX countries, and a safe return to a permanent QTH.

This station commenced operations on Christmas Day, 1936, with the completion of a home constructed 5 valve battery operated straight receiver. This set, with a coverage of 9.5—2000 metres was the only apparatus in use until 1946 and provided many fascinating hours of listening, mainly on the amateur bands. In 1946 the station was re-equipped with the present gear, as shown in the photographs: main Rx is a Phillips PCR, with an R1224 for the low frequency bands. This latter receiver is operated from a home built power supply which also feeds 6V. AC to the Class D Wavemeter. The original Rx is no longer in use.

With regards to results, by September 1947 the log on amateur bands read 37 Zones, 116 Countries. Since then activities have been solely concentrated on the broadcast bands, as the operator finds this type of DX more

difficult and interesting. Very little attention had been paid to the QSL side, in fact, in eleven years only 36 countries had been verified. However, in the last eighteen months, stimulated by Monitor's "Honour Roll," the total of countries verified has been pushed up to 91 out of 119 heard. The operator is proud to have verifications stating that this was the first British station to log KRHO, CBLX and CR6RG. Other rare DX catches have been HC1IM, ZNB, CR4AA, KZPI, CR6RB, ZNR, OXI, XMPA, TI8WS, XEOI

The main difficulties encountered have been numerous intermittent breaks and changes of QTH, necessitated by studies and professional duties. These factors have reflected on the technical set-up by the lack of good antenna systems, and, as will be seen from the photographs, the gear has had to be restricted in amount to keep it at least semi-portable.

At the present moment the station is once again QRX, due to service in the Army. But you will be hearing plenty more about it in the future, especially when a permanent location is established!

So 73 from T.B.W. and good listening.